

Urban District of Bedworth

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
for the year 1948

by

P. G. HORSBURGH, G.M., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BEDWORTH

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
BEDWORTH.

August, 1949.

To

*The Chairman and Members,
Public Health Committee,
Bedworth Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting the Statistical Report for the year 1948.

The Health Statistics of the Urban District do not call for any outstanding comment. Your general Death Rate is lower than last year, and the Infantile Mortality Rate shows a slight increase, i.e., from 38.0 to 41.214 per thousand live births. The actual number of children dying under the age of one year was the same as in 1947, but the increase in the Mortality Rate is caused by a slight decrease in the Birth Rate. The deaths of children under the age of one year occurred mainly during the first week, namely, ten out of the 19 recorded. With our present state of knowledge, it is difficult to say what preventive measures can be taken to reduce this first week of life mortality. The cause—probably multiple in character—involving environmental conditions, parental health, dietetics, etc.

Scarlet Fever shows some increase over the previous year, but no deaths were recorded from this disease. Two cases of Diphtheria were notified, both occurring in un-immunised persons, one of which died.

On the sanitary conditions of the area, 1948 shows some progress. It was decided to sewer part of Bulkington, draining into a neighbouring authority's sewerage system. This will cut out, on completion, a large number of unsatisfactory cess-pools. Plans are in progress for the drainage of other parts of the Bulkington area, which will involve a new sewage-works to cope with this district. We still have, in this part of the area, 30 privy-middens, which cause much nuisance, but these will be eliminated when the new sewerage system is in being. The Council also decided, during 1948, that some 90 pailclosets in the Bedworth and Exhall district should be converted to the water carriage system. This will leave 96 pailclosets which cannot be converted, as there is no sewer within a reasonable distance.

Various analyses of your Water Supply are recorded in the body of the Report. The question of the quantity of water available has been discussed by the Council on many occasions. It is hoped that, in the near future, additional water supplies can be made available, in view of the increasing demand which is likely to take place through the housing programme, the conversions of pailclosets to the water carriage system, and the additional demand for water for domestic purposes which has taken place.

Although the Council have been active in their building programme, much still remains to be done. It is impossible to adequately put the various Acts into operation to deal with the many unfit houses and overcrowded conditions in the District, until there are more houses available. These problems will have to receive attention as soon as the housing situation permits.

I would again like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their help and guidance to the Health Department, and to express my very sincere appreciation to the Members of the Health Department Staff for their loyal co-operation and hard work during 1948.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

P. G. HORSBURGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

BEDWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Chairman :

Mr. Councillor F. BENN, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

Mr. Councillor F. L. PERKINS.

Chairman of the Council :

(Mr. Councillor A. BUTLER, J.P.)

„ „ W. L. SHORTRIDGE.

„ „ W. J. FARNDON.

„ „ S. BEND.

„ „ L. E. GRANT, J.P.

„ „ E. C. WADDAMS.

„ „ H. KNIGHT, C.O.

„ „ F. H. HOPKINS.

„ „ T. BUCKNALL.

„ „ J. FLETCHER.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

*† P. G. HORSBURGH, G.M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Other Foods Inspector,
Cleansing Superintendent :

†† CHARLES E. DEAKIN, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

†† HENRY BURRIS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk :

† Miss F. LEACH.

Public Vaccinator :

*C. S. APPLEYARD, M.B., Ch.B.
(to 5th July, 1948).

Clerk of the Council :

† MAURICE ARMSON, F.C.R.A.

Engineer and Surveyor :

† D. BLENKINSOP, A.M.I.M.E.

Water Works and Sewage Works Manager :

† C. S. B. COOPER.

* Part-time Appointment.

† Full-time Appointment.

† Salary Contribution by Exchequer Grants.

VITAL STATISTICS

Area of the District	...	...	...	...	...	7,913 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	...	23,950
(Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population—mid-year, 1948)						
Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1948	...	...	...	...	...	6,508
(according to Rate Books)						
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£96,670
General Rate	...	...	...	...	...	17s. 6d.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£369
(Estimated 1948-1949)						

		Total	Male	Female		
LIVE BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	450	222	228	BIRTH RATE	} 19·248
	{ Illegitimate	11	6	5		
STILL-BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	11	7	4	STILL-BIRTH RATE	} 0·4592
	{ Illegitimate	—	—	—		
DEATHS	...	198	106	92	DEATH RATE	} 8·268
	...					
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR			{ Legitimate		...	19
			{ Illegitimate		...	—
			{ Total		...	19
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)		...	...	...	...	41·214

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth		{ From Sepsis		...	—
		{ From other causes		...	1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1948

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females	Total
All Causes	106	92	198
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—
Cerebr. Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	1
Tuberculosis—Respiratory system ...	6	7	13
Tuberculosis—Other Forms	2	1	3
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	2	—	2
Measles	—	—	—
Ac: Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Ac: Inf: Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	—	—	—
Cancer of Uterus	—	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	5	4	9
Cancer of Breast	—	5	5
Cancer of all other sites	17	5	22
Diabetes	1	1	2
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	7	6	13
Heart Disease	23	29	52
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	3	6
Bronchitis... ..	10	1	11
Pneumonia	7	3	10
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	1	4
Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	5	5
Nephritis	—	2	2
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis ...	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	1	1
Premature Birth	4	6	10
Congenital Malformation, birth injuries; infantile diseases	5	2	7
Suicide	—	—	—
Road Traffic accidents	1	—	1
Other Violent Causes	—	2	2
All Other Causes	9	7	16

INFANTILE MORTALITY

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS, 1948

Causes of Death	under 1 week	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	Total under 4 wks	1-3 mths	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	Total under 1 year
Prematurity ...	8	1	—	—	9	1	—	—	—	10
Congenital defects...	}	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Birth injuries ...										
Infantile diseases ...										
Pneumococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bilateral supra renal Haemorrhage	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ...	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3
Gastro Enteritis ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Peritonitis ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	10	5	—	—	15	2	1	—	1	19

INFANT DEATHS—WARD

Ward	Males	Females	Total
Bedworth East ...	3	2	5
„ West ...	3	2	5
„ North ...	—	3	3
Exhall East ...	1	—	1
„ West ...	3	1	4
Bulkington ...	—	1	1
	10	9	19

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Infectious Diseases.—The Council are in agreement with the Corporations of Coventry and Nuneaton to receive into their Isolation Hospitals cases of infectious disease occurring in the Urban District of Bedworth.

Small-pox.—The Council are in agreement with the Corporation of Coventry to receive into their Pinley Small-pox Hospital cases of Small-pox occurring in the Urban District of Bedworth.

Tuberculosis. The King Edward Memorial Hospital, Hertford Hill, is provided by the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Committee, and is available to patients residing in the Bedworth Urban District.

Maternity.—No Hospital is provided, but private and urgent cases are taken into the Coventry & Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry, the Nuneaton E.M.S. Hospital, and the Nuneaton General Hospital.

General.—The Bedworth Urban District is served by the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry.

Orthopaedic —Patients from the Bedworth Urban District can be sent for consultation and treatment to the Orthopaedic Clinic, "Dunsmore," Holyhead Road, Coventry.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The County Council is the responsible authority for the Ambulance Services within the Urban District. During the day Ambulances are available from the Depot at Newtown Road, Bedworth, and at night from the Depot at Riversley Park, Nuneaton.

LABORATORY WORK

Specimens of sputum, throat and nasal discharge, etc., are forwarded to the University of Birmingham for examination, the result being communicated to the Medical Officer of Health and to the medical practitioner sending the specimen. Outfits for taking these specimens are supplied by the University Pathological Department. In urgent cases outfits can be supplied on application to the Medical Officer of Health.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Maternity and Child Welfare. The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is situated in Saunders Avenue, Bedworth. The work of this clinic is supervised by a voluntary committee and, in addition services are provided by the County Council. A school clinic is also maintained at this centre by the County Council.

Tuberculosis. Patients attend dispensaries at Coventry and Nuneaton for treatment provided by the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.

Venereal Disease. Free treatment is provided by the County Council at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General. One voluntary Nursing Association.

(b) Infectious Diseases - Nil.

Midwives. There are 4 midwives practising in the Urban District, none of whom is subsidised by the Council.

CLINICS

Service	Situation of Premises	Days Open	Authority Responsible
Maternity and Child Welfare :			
Welfare Centres	Child Welfare Centre Premises, Saunders Avenue Bedworth.	Mondays and Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m.	Warwickshire County Council
	Cricket Pavilion, Bulkington.	Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.	Ditto
Ante-Natal Clinic	Child Welfare Centre Premises, Saunders Avenue, Bedworth	Alternate Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 4 p.m.	Ditto
School Medical Service :			
Treatment and Inspection Clinic	Ditto	Mondays and Thursdays, 10 to 12 noon	Ditto
Eye Clinic	Ditto	Fridays, 9-30 to 12 noon	Ditto
Dental Clinic	Ditto	Alternate Tuesdays, 10 to 12 noon, 2 to 4 p.m.	Ditto

WATER SUPPLY

The Water Supply of Bedworth is constant, and is obtained as follows :—

(a) *Three sources at the Newdigate Colliery, in the West Ward of the District*

(i.) From an adit in the Frank Shaft, 270 ft. below ground surface.

(ii.) From a 10 in. borehole, 218 ft. deep.

(iii.) From a 12 in. borehole, 220 ft. deep. (Not in use.)

The total quantity of water from these sources for 1948 was
92,279,500 gallons.

(b) *20 in. Borehole, Bedworth Waterworks.*

This borehole, which had been closed for a number of years, was reopened and pumping tests carried out at the latter end of 1947. The supply was ultimately brought into use for domestic purposes in April, 1948, and continues to produce a substantial daily supply. The borehole is 20 in. in diameter and 275 ft. deep. The yield for nine months ending December, 1948, was

27,312,000 gallons.

(c) *Exhall Deep Well.*

This well is 9 ft. in diameter, and approximately 260–300 ft. deep. The yield from this well during the year was

18,199,000 gallons.

All this water is pumped into a storage reservoir at the Waterworks. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 750,000 galls., which is normally a 1.457 days supply for the town. The water is pumped from a reservoir to the Water Tower, from which it is distributed throughout the town after chlorination.

(d) *Bulkington.*

This supply is obtained from an 8 in. borehole, which is 270 ft. deep. The yield during the year was

10,950,000 gallons.

(e) *Coventry Corporation.*

This is used as a Supplementary Supply, and is only drawn upon when necessary. The quantity obtained from this source during the year was

39,046,000 gallons.

The Exhall East and West Wards are in the Water Supply district of the City of Coventry, and are supplied by that Corporation.

The rural portions of the District obtain their supply from shallow wells, of which there are approximately 14, which are included in wells used for domestic supply.

As a result of the above, it is considered that the Water Supply of the area has been satisfactory. The Water Supply is considered to be satisfactory in quality, 29 samples having been taken during the year and submitted for analysis; and chemical and bacteriological analyses are shewn elsewhere in this Report.

The average daily consumption of water in the District during 1948 was:—

Domestic	...	...	...	...	424,611 gallons
Trade	...	...	...	...	27,992 „
Bramcote	...	...	...	...	60,627 „
Barnacle and Shilton, for Rugby R.D.C.	...	...	...	...	1,252 „
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	514,482 „

The maximum consumption of water in any one day for all sources was ... 586,000 gallons

Population of Statutory Area	...	...	...	20,412
Population supplied into Houses	...	...	...	18,581
Population supplied by standpipes	...	...	...	1,597
Total population directly supplied	...	...	...	20,178
Population without piped supply	...	...	...	234
Total hereditaments supplied	...	...	...	6,333
Houses with standpipes	...	...	...	453
Standpipes	...	...	...	154
Wells used for domestic supply	...	...	...	67

No. of samples of Town's water submitted for analysis:—29.

		<i>Raw Water.</i>	<i>Treated Water.</i>
(a) Chemical	...	7	2
(b) Bacteriological	...	19	1

Total No. of samples from all other sources submitted for analysis:—19.

		<i>Raw Water.</i>	<i>Chemical.</i>	<i>Bacteriological.</i>
(a) Wells	...	—	2	
(b) Ponds	...	3	3	
(c) Potential Town Supply		4	5	
(d) River	...	1	1	

The latest chemical and Bacteriological analyses are as follows :

CHEMICAL.

Results expressed in parts per 100,000.

SOURCE.	Free and Saline Ammonia.	Albu- minoid Ammonia.	Chlorine in Chlorides.	Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites.	Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate at 80°F. in 4 hours.	Total Solids dried at 100°C.	Nitrite.	Free Chlorine.	pH.	Appearance.	Plumbo- Solvency.
Newdegate Colliery No. 1	0	0	7.4	0.20	0.006	54	Absent	—	—	Bright, few small particles.	—
Newdegate Colliery No. 2	0	0	7.3	0.19	0.002	60	Absent	—	—	Bright, many small particles.	—
20" Borehole Bedworth Waterworks	0.0135	0	8.0	Absent	0.029	75	0.002	—	—	Slightly turbid, very many small brown particles.	—
Exhall Well	0.0135	0	20.8	Absent	0.037	122	0.02	—	—	Slightly turbid, very many small brown particles.	—
Bulkington Borehole	0.0007	0	12.6	Minute Trace	0.010	80	Minute Trace	—	7.35	Bright, many small particles.	—
Bulk Supply	0.0025	0	8.7	0.14	0.002	68	Absent	0.009	—	Some brownish suspended matter.	—

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

SOURCE.	No. of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in 2 days at 37°C per c.c.	No. of colonies capable of growth on Reibel-Agar in 2 days at 37°C per c.c.	No. of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in 4 days at 20°C per c.c.	Presumptive B. Coli in 100 c.c.	Sub-cultures.
Newdegate Colliery No. 1	3	0	12	Absent	—
Newdegate Colliery No. 2	5	0	17	Absent	—
20" Borehole Bedworth Waterworks	4	0	16	Absent	—
Exhall Well ...	0	0	4	Absent	—
Bulkington Borehole ...	0	0	3	Absent	—
Bulk Supply ...	1	0	2	Absent	—

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector

PREMISES	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	24	—	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	—	—	—
Workplaces (other than Out-worker's premises) ...	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	24	—	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :				
Insufficient	2	2	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	2	2	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

INSPECTIONS BY SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1948

To Dwelling Houses.

Disinfections after infectious disease (rooms)	...	114
Disinfections for vermin (rooms)	... ..	102
Re infectious diseases	... ..	105
For drain testing...	... ..	12
Inspections under Housing Acts	... ..	20
Re inspections under Housing Acts	... ..	42

To Other Premises.

Factories and Workshops	... ..	24
Shops Inspected	... ..	106

To Food Preparing Places.

Fried Fish Shops	... ..	29
Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds	... ..	79
Bakelhouses	... ..	15
Butchers' Shops, Stalls, and Vans	... ..	62
Ice Cream Premises	... ..	60

NUISANCES ABATED

Dwelling Houses.

Defective walls and ceilings repaired	... ..	36
Roofs repaired	... ..	28
Stairs repaired	... ..	3
Spouting repaired or new provided	... ..	24
Defective floors repaired or renewed	... ..	36
Fireplaces repaired or rebuilt	... ..	6
Coppers repaired or rebuilt	... ..	1
Yard paving repaired	... ..	3
Windows renewed or repaired	... ..	39
New sinks provided	... ..	27
Defective pointing repaired	... ..	30

Drainage, etc.

Drainage cleared from obstruction	... ..	50
Drainage inspection chambers provided or repaired...	... ..	10
Ventilating shafts improved	... ..	1
Defective drains relaid	... ..	4

Closest Accommodation.

Water closet cisterns repaired or renewed...	... ..	21
Insufficient, repaired or renewed	... ..	70

Domestic Refuse.

Dustbins provided	58
-------------------	--------	----

Factories and Workshops.

Unsuitable sanitary accommodation improved	2
--	--------	---

MILK SUPPLY

Premises in which cows are kept	...	...	...	38
Number of milk retailers, other than producers resident in district	...	...	...	54

HOUSING**(a) Statistics**

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) By the Local Authority—

Permanent aluminium bungalows 71

Permanent houses, Furnace Field's Housing Estate 115

(b) By private enterprise 14

Houses demolished during the year were as follows :—

Individual unfit houses 1

Houses included in clearance areas Nil

DISINFECTIONS

The disinfection of all premises, houses, bedding, etc., is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector after cases of infectious diseases. Steam disinfection is available for bulky goods, such as bedding, etc. Spraying or fumigation with Formalin is the method employed in houses.

Number of rooms 216

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936**EXTRACT FROM REGISTER**

Premises licensed for storage of Petroleum	...	30
Premises licensed for storage of Carbide	...	1
Premises licensed for storage of Petroleum Mixtures		6
Total storage capacity of Petroleum Tanks	34,520 gallons	
Total storage capacity of Carbide Store	... ..	448 lbs.
Total storage capacity of Petroleum Mixtures Containers	... ..	5,220 gallons

FOOD CONDEMNED DURING 1948

DETAIL					Weight		
					Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Meat	...	...	...	...	1	3	14
Poultry	...	...	...	...			7
12 tins of meat	...	...	...	...		1	16 $\frac{1}{4}$
320 tins and jars of jam, fruit, milk, vegetables, fish, etc.	...	...	...	...	4	1	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bacon	...	...	...	...		1	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese	...	...	...	...			4
Sausages	...	...	...	...			10
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
Fish	...	...	...	...		2	14
Cake	...	...	...	...		3	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
34 doz. Eggs	...	...	...	...		1	23
Butter	...	...	...	...			7
Cereals	...	...	...	...			8
TOTAL WEIGHT					15	3	14

SALVAGE

				Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
Waste Paper	...	...	...	54	16	2
Rags	...	...	...	2	2	2
Bones	...	...	...	—	—	—
Ferrous Metal	...	...	...	4	12	1
Bottles and Cullet	...	...	...	7	3	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—WARDS

DISEASE	W A R D						
	Bedworth E.	Bedworth W.	Bedworth N.	Exhall E.	Exhall W.	Bulkington	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	10	32	22	7	10	21	102
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas ...	6	2	—	1	1	1	11
Measles ...	22	44	14	23	30	38	171
Whooping Cough ...	—	10	2	1	2	—	15
Pneumonia...	6	3	6	—	3	2	20
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	3

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1948

NEW CASES						DEATHS						
Age Period			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
0- 1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-10	...	...	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	—
10-15	...	...	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—
15-20	...	...	1	4	—	1	—	1	—	1
20-25	...	...	2	7	—	2	1	1	—	—
25-35	...	...	6	3	1	1	3	3	—	—
35-45	...	...	4	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
45-55	...	...	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
65 over	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals			19	20	2	8	6	7	2	1

ISOLATION HOSPITALS

CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL, 1948

DISEASE	NUNEATON		COVENTRY		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	20	26	5	6	25	32
Diphtheria	—	—	1	1	1	1
Measles	—	—	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	1	—	1
	20	26	6	9	26	35

FOOD POISONING

Total number of outbreaks	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each	Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each
—	—	—	—	—

